

In the Claims:

1. An electronic book system, comprising:
an electronic book, the electronic book including components of digital data that represent information; and
links between the components of the digital data, wherein when the links are activated, a first component is connected to a second component.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and the second components are located in one electronic book.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the one electronic book includes a main portion and one or more of an index, a table of contents and a glossary.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the first component is located in the main portion and the second component is located in one of the index, the table of contents and the glossary.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the first component is located in a first electronic book and the second component is located in a second electronic book.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein the second electronic book is one of a dictionary, a foreign language dictionary, and a technical dictionary.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the first component is located in an electronic book and the second component is located in a data base.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the data base is located at an operations center.
9. The system of claim 7, wherein the data base is located at an Internet web site.
10. The system of claim 7, wherein the data base includes a list of available books related to the first component, wherein one or more of the available books may be ordered for delivery.
11. The system of claim 10, wherein the available books are electronic books, and wherein the electronic books are delivered by transmission over a telecommunications medium.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the telecommunications medium includes one of a plain old telephone system, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital satellite television system, a fiber optic system, an ethernet, and a wireless television system.

13. The system of claim 1, wherein the second component is an Internet web site.

14. The system of claim 13, wherein the Internet web site includes an address of one or more news groups related to the first component.

15. The system of claim 1, further comprising a first display, the first display showing an image corresponding to page of a book, and wherein the second component is displayed as an overlay on the first display.

16. The system of claim 1, further comprising a first display, the first display showing an image corresponding to page of a book, and wherein the second component is displayed in a picture-in-picture format on the first display.

17. The system of claim 1, further comprising a first display, the first display showing an image corresponding to a page of a book, and wherein when a link is activated, the image being shown on the first display is rescaled and redirected to be shown in a first window and the second component is displayed in a second window adjacent to the first window.

18. The system of claim 1, further comprising a first display that displays a first image corresponding to a first page of a book and a second display that displays a second image corresponding to a second page of a book, and wherein when a link is activated, the second component is displayed in one of the first and the second display and the first component is displayed in one of the first and the second display.

19. The system of claim 1, further comprising a menu system, the menu system including:

a help menu, wherein the help menu provides instructions for using the menu system; and

1 a show links menu, wherein when selected, the show links menu displays a link
2 type menu that includes audio clip links, graphics file links, definition links, language
3 translation links, book order links, book review links, related discussion group links,
4 pronunciation links, data base links, other book links, and book section links.

5 20. The system of claim 19, wherein each component on a page of the electronic book
6 may have one or more links to another component.

7 21. The system of claim 20, wherein a desired link type is selected by highlighting the
8 desired link type from the links menu with a cursor and operating a select button, and
9 wherein when the desired link type is selected, all corresponding linked components that
10 exist on a page being displayed are highlighted.

11 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the linked components are highlighted by
12 displaying the linked components in a first color different from a second color for
13 remaining information on the page.

14 23. The system of claim 21, wherein the linked components are displayed in a font
15 different from a font used to display the page.

16 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the linked components are highlighted by
17 displaying the linked components in one of a bold typeface, an italics typeface, and
18 underlined.

19 25. The system of claim 21, wherein a desired link is activated by selecting a desired
20 highlighted component using a cursor and operating a select button.

21 26. The system of claim 1, wherein the second component is an audio presentation.

22 27. The system of claim 1, wherein the second component is a video presentation.

23 28. The system of claim 1, wherein the second component is a location where
24 products can be ordered and purchased.

25 29. The system of claim 1, wherein the second component is a location where
26 electronic books can be ordered and purchased.

27 30. A method for linking electronic files to electronic books, comprising:
28 identifying a first location in a first electronic book;

1 associating a first electronic file with the first location, wherein the associating
2 step creates a first electronic link;

3 repeating the identifying and associating steps, the repeated steps creating
4 electronic links;

5 activating the first electronic link by selecting the first location, the activating step
6 causing the first electronic file to be displayed.

7 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic books are stored in an electronic
8 book unit.

9 32. The method of claim 31, wherein the electronic book unit, comprises:
10 a memory that stores the electronic books and selected electronic files;
11 a display that displays the electronic books and the electronic files;
12 a control unit adapted to receive commands from a user; and
13 a controller that controls operation of the electronic book unit and activation of
14 the electronic links.

15 33. The method of claim 30, wherein the first location is a location in an index of the
16 first electronic book, and wherein activation of the first link displays a page of the first
17 electronic book associated with the location in the index.

18 34. The method of claim 30, wherein the first location is a location in a table of
19 contents of the first electronic book, and wherein activation of the first link displays a
20 page of the first electronic book associated with the location in the index.

21 35. The method of claim 30, wherein the first location is one of a word and a phrase
22 in the first electronic book, and wherein the first electronic file is a location in a
23 dictionary that defines the word or the phrase.

24 36. The method of claim 35, wherein the electronic book unit includes an audio
25 module, wherein when the first link is activated, the audio unit provides an audio
26 presentation giving a pronunciation of the word or the phrase.

27 37. The method of claim 35, wherein the dictionary is a foreign language dictionary,
28 and wherein the electronic file is displayed in a foreign language.

1 38. The method of claim 37, wherein the electronic book unit includes a foreign
2 language selection feature, and wherein the electronic book unit activates a selected
3 foreign language dictionary based on an input from the foreign language selection feature.

4 39. The method of claim 30, wherein the electronic book unit is connected to a
5 telecommunications network, and wherein the first electronic file is stored in a database
6 in the telecommunications network.

7 40. The method of claim 39, wherein the telecommunications network includes one
8 of a telephone system, a cable television system, a wireless telephone system, a digital
9 satellite television system, a fiber optic system, an ethernet, and a wireless television
10 system.

11 41. The method of claim 39, wherein the database is a part of an Internet web site.

12 42. The method of claim 39, wherein activating the first link provides access to the
13 Internet web site.

14 43. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a second location in
15 a second electronic book.

16 44. The method of claim 43, wherein the first and the second electronic books are
17 stored in an electronic book unit.

18 45. The method of claim 30, further comprising providing a menu, wherein the menu
19 includes a show links menu, and wherein the show links menu displays all available
20 electronic links associated with a selected location in the first electronic link.

21 46. The method of claim 45, wherein a desired electronic link is selected from the
22 displayed available electronic links.

23 47. The method of claim 45, wherein the show links menu displays available
24 electronic link types for a displayed page in the first electronic book, and wherein when
25 a desired electronic link type is selected, all available electronic links corresponding to
26 the desired electronic link type are displayed on the page.

27 48. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is displayed in an overlay
28 on a page of the first electronic link having the selected first location

1 49. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is displayed side by side
2 with a page of the first electronic link having the selected first location.

3 50. The method of claim 30, wherein the activating step comprises operating a
4 pointing device and a cursor to highlight the first location and operating a select button
5 to select the first location.

6 51. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is an audio presentation.

7 52. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a video presentation.

8 53. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a location where
9 products can be ordered and purchased.

10 54. The method of claim 30, wherein the first electronic file is a location where books
11 can be ordered and purchased.

12 55. The method of claim 54, wherein the books are electronic books.

13 56. A method for using electronic links in an electronic book system, the electronic
14 book system including an electronic book displayable on a display, the method
15 comprising

16 displaying a linked first component of the electronic book;

17 selecting the first component; and

18 displaying a second component linked to the first component.

19 57. The method of claim 56, wherein the second component is a portion of the
20 electronic book.

21 58. The method of claim 56, wherein the second component is a portion of a second
22 electronic book.

23 59. The method of claim 58, wherein the second component is one of a dictionary,
24 an encyclopedia, and a foreign language dictionary.

25 60. The method of claim 56, wherein the second component is located in a database.

26 61. The method of claim 60, wherein the database is at an operations center.

27 62. The method of claim 61, wherein the database is at an Internet web site.

1 63. The method of claim 61 wherein the Internet web site includes an address of one
2 or more news groups related to the first component.

3 64. The method of claim 56, wherein the display is an electronic book viewer.

4 65. The method of claim 64, wherein the second component is an external
5 communications device.

6 66. The method of claim 65, wherein the external communications device is a
7 telephone, and wherein selection of the first component initiates a telephone call between
8 the viewer and the telephone.

9 67. The method of claim 56, wherein the display is a television.

10 68. The method of claim 56, wherein the display is a personal computer.

11 69. The method of claim 56, wherein the second component is one of a product
12 catalog and a service catalog, and wherein a product and a service maybe purchased using
13 the product and the service catalogs, respectively.

14 70. The method of claim 69, wherein the product catalog is an electronic book
15 catalog.

16 71. The method of claim 56, further comprising hiding the displayed linked second
17 component.

18 72. The method of claim 71, further comprising, restoring the hidden second
19 component.

20 73. The method of claim 56, wherein when the second component is displayed, the
21 second component shows links to third components.

22 74. The method of claim 56, wherein a user of the electronic book creates links
23 between first components and second components.

24 75. The method of claim 56, wherein first components and second components are
25 linked through a relational database.

26 76. The method of claim 56, wherein links linking the first and the second
27 components are refreshed by data provided by an external facility.

1 77. The method of claim 76, wherein the external facility is one of an operations
2 center and an Internet web site.

3 78. The method of claim 56, wherein the second component is cross-linked to a third
4 component.

5 79. The method of claim 56, wherein an electronic link between the first and the
6 second components is a two-way electronic link.

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